

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1) (Original) A container, in particular for preserving food products, consisting in a hollow structure (2) obtainable by bending and sealing at least one substantially flat blank (1a) and comprising: a containing portion (3) providing an enclosure (4) in which to accommodate at least one preservable product, presenting at least one side wall (6) furnished with at least one end portion (7) adaptable by bending and sealing operations in such a way as to fashion a bottom end (8); and an outlet portion (5) located at the end opposite to the bottom end (8), permanently associated with the side wall (6) of the containing portion (3) and combining to establish the enclosure (4) at least in part, characterized in that the bottom end (8) fashioned from the end portion (7) of the side wall (6) presents at least one area of layered structure delimited by at least one seal (10c) positioned to isolate the selfsame area of layered structure from the enclosure (4) of the container (1), thereby ensuring that the enclosure (4) encompasses a volume devoid of interstitial spaces and/or stagnation points.

- 2) (Original) A container as in claim 1, wherein the seal (10c) delimiting the area of layered structure presented by the bottom end (8) is applied to at least two parts of the end portion (7) of the side wall (8), in such a way that the selfsame parts are united to create a respective stiffening element (10) forming part of the bottom end.

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3) (Original) A container as in claim 1, of which the outlet portion (5) incorporates a spout (5d) by which the food product in the container can be caused to follow a predetermined preferential flow direction, wherein the spout (5d) consists in a part of the outlet portion (5) furnished with at least two crease lines (5c) extending divergently toward a free edge (12) of the outlet portion and capable of alternating between a non-operating condition in which the container (1) is closed with the spout (5d) retracted into the outlet portion (5) and presenting a substantially flat configuration, and an operating condition in which the container (1) is open with the spout (5d) projecting from the selfsame outlet portion (5).

4) (Original) A container as in claim 1, wherein the outlet portion (5) is furnished with at least one neck piece (9) connecting the enclosure (4) with the surrounding environment, also with a relative element (9a) fitted to and functioning as a closure for the selfsame neck piece (9).

5) (Currently Amended) A container as in ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the container (1) is of substantially prismatic shape, presenting a polygonal cross section.

6) (Currently Amended) A container as in ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the container (1) is of substantially cylindrical shape, presenting a circular cross section.

7) (Original) A container, in particular for preserving food products, consisting in a hollow structure (2) obtainable by bending and sealing at least one substantially flat blank (1a)

and comprising: a containing portion (3) providing an enclosure (4) in which to accommodate at least one preservable product, presenting at least one side wall (6) furnished with at least one end portion (7) adaptable by bending and sealing operations in such a way as to fashion a bottom end (8); and an outlet portion (5) located at the end opposite to the bottom end (8), permanently associated with the side wall (6) of the containing portion (3) and combining to establish the enclosure (4) at least in part, characterized in that the outlet portion (5) presents at least one spout (5d) by which the food product in the container can be caused to follow a predetermined preferential flow direction, and in that such a spout (5d) consists in a part of the outlet portion (5) furnished with at least two crease lines (5c) extending divergently toward a free edge (12) of the outlet portion and capable of alternating between a non-operating condition in which the container (1) is closed with the spout (5d) retracted into the outlet portion (5) and presenting a substantially flat configuration, and an operating condition in which the container (1) is open with the spout (5d) projecting from the selfsame outlet portion (5).

8) (Original) A container as in claim 7, wherein the spout (5d) presents a substantially Vee shaped cross sectional profile when in the operating condition.

9) (Original) A method of manufacturing a container, in particular for preserving food products, utilizing a substantially flat blank (1a) of material presenting a plurality of crease lines (11) generated by a scoring operation, and comprising the steps of: causing the blank (1a) to assume a substantially tubular shape establishing at least one side wall (6) of the container (1) in

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production; fixing the blank (1a) to retain the tubular shape; bending the tubular blank (1a) along at least two mutually opposed segments of a transverse crease line (11b) delimiting an end portion (7) of the side wall (6) so that the end portion is caused to bend along angled crease lines (11c) departing from the transverse crease line (11b) and extending convergently toward a free transverse edge (12) of the tubular blank (1a), in such a way as to create a bottom end (8) of the container (1) in production, and at least two mutually opposed stiffening elements (10) of layered structure; fixing the bottom end (8) and the stiffening elements (10) by sealing together at least two joined faces of the free transverse edge (12) presented by the tubular blank (1a); bending the end portion (7) further along mutually opposed segments of the transverse crease line (11b) delimiting the stiffening elements (10) so that these same elements are flattened over the bottom end (8); and securing the stiffening elements (10) to the bottom end (8), characterized in that it comprises the further step of sealing the layered structure presented by each stiffening element (10) along the corresponding segment of the transverse crease line (11b).

10) (Original) A method as in claim 9, wherein the step of sealing each stiffening element (10) is effected before these same elements are bent along the respective segments of the transverse crease line (11b).

11) (New) A container as in claim 2, wherein the container (1) is of substantially prismatic shape, presenting a polygonal cross section.

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12) (New) A container as in claim 3, wherein the container (1) is of substantially prismatic shape, presenting a polygonal cross section.

13) (New) A container as in claim 4, wherein the container (1) is of substantially prismatic shape, presenting a polygonal cross section.

14) (New) A container as in claim 2, wherein the container (1) is of substantially cylindrical shape, presenting a circular cross section.

15) (New) A container as in claim 3, wherein the container (1) is of substantially cylindrical shape, presenting a circular cross section.

16) (New) A container as in claim 4, wherein the container (1) is of substantially cylindrical shape, presenting a circular cross section.